Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 /075 W
-------130793 300059Z /63

R 292056Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1117

CONFIDENTIAL SANTO DOMINGO 3176

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, SOPN, DR, OAS SUBJECT: EFFECTS OF 7TH OASGA HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1. IN EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF OASGA, DOMINICANS HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE ROLE THEIR COUNTRY PLAYED IN GRENADA. USED TO TAKING A BACK SEAT IN SUCH MULTILATERAL MEETINGS, THE DOMINICANS, IN THE LOCAL VIEW, HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES CAPABLE OF TAKING THE LEAD IN DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AND HAD RAISED THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATURE. MOST DOMINICAN LEADERS SEEM PLEASED THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CAME OUT OF THE GA CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE, AFTER A FITFUL BEGINNING OCCASIONED BY THE INITIAL DOMINICAN POSITION ON TERRORISM.

2. FONSEC JIMENEZ TOLD AMBASSADOR JUNE 27 THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE OF US IN PURSUING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE AT GRENADA. JIMENEZ REAFFIRMED HIS OWN COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAID HE WAS PURSHING SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND DISCUSSING LOCAL APPLICATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH OTHER DOMINICAN MILITARY LEADERS. JIMENEZ MENTIONED PROLONGED TRIAL PROCEDURES AS A SPECIFIC AREA WARRANTING ATTENTION.

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3. IN LETTER DATED JUNE 28, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S PRESS,
PRESIDENT BALAGUER CALLS THE ATTENTION OF THE DOMINICAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THOSE DEFICIENCIES OF JUSTICE IN THE
COUNTRY DUE TO TRIAL DELAYS. THIS PRACTICE, THE PRESIDENT'S
LETTER NOTES, "WAS DENOUNCED AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE
ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICAN STATES AS ONE OF THE GRAVEST OFFENSES

AGAINST THE INHERENT RIGHTS OF PERSONS....(AND) SHOULD BE CORRECTED". IT THEN RECOMMENDS THATTHE ATTORNEY GENERAL "TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS SO THAT CASES HELD UP WITHOUT JUSTIFIABLE CAUSE BEFORE DIFFERENT TRIBUNALS IN THE COUNTRY, BOTH IN CASES OF SO-CALLED POLITICAL PRISONERS AND OF COMMON OFFENDERS OF PENAL LAW, BE HEARD WITHOUT NEW DELAYS AND IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH THE LAW".

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DEBATES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO03176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770233-0044

Format: TEL

From: SANTO DOMINGO Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977067/aaaaafqz.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b2d667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2199446 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EFFECTS OF 7TH OASGA HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, SOPN, DR, OAS

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b2d667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009